

virtue and spread corruption through the whole mass of society! They have a stronger claim to pity than any other class of mankind.” - p5

- “The human character has always been formed by the employments the individual or class pursues; and if the faculties are not sharpened by necessity, they must remain obtuse. The same line of thought can fairly be extended to women. That is because most of them have no *serious* occupations; they are left to the pursuit of pleasure, which gives to their character the triviality that makes the society of the *great* so insipid. The lack of firmness, produced by a similar cause, forces them both - ‘great’ men and all women - to fly from themselves to noisy pleasures and artificial passions, until vanity takes place of every social affection, and the characteristics of humanity almost disappear from sight.” - p35
- “Women of the superior class do at least pick up a smattering of literature, and they converse more with men on general topics, so they acquire more knowledge than the women who ape their fashions and faults without sharing their advantages. As for virtue: I have seen most virtue in low life. Many poor women maintain their children by the sweat of their brow, and keep together families that the vices of the fathers would have scattered; but gentlewomen are too lazy to be actively virtuous, and are softened rather than refined by civilization” - p52
- “Men have superior strength of body; but if it weren’t for mistaken notions of beauty, women would become strong enough to be able to earn enough to live on, which is the true definition of ‘independent’; and to bear the bodily inconveniences and exertions that are needed to strengthen the mind.” - p58
- “But the whole system of ‘representation’ in this country is at present only a convenient label for despotism; so women need not complain, because they are as well represented as a numerous class of hard working mechanics who pay for the support of royalty when they can scarcely put bread in their children’s mouths.” - p87
- “The school for the younger children, from five to nine years of age, ought to be absolutely free and open to all classes.” - p96

Wollstonecraft as a Critic of Burke, David Bromwich, Yale University, *Political Theory*, Vol. 23 No. 4, November 1995, pp. 617-634

- “But in a society where equal claims were granted to men and women, or to those with property and those with little, strong minds would be formed by the contest of judgement so as mutually to fortify the different parties - p 625

Radical Politics in Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Elissa Guralnick,

- “Yet the *Rights of Woman* is a radical political tract, even before it is a radical feminist tract. In fact, the feminism that animates the *Rights of Woman* is merely a special instance of the political radicalism that animates the *Rights of Men*.” - p155
- “*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* cannot be properly interpreted except as a statement of political radicalism” - p156
- “Urges a spirit of revisionism founded on several clear truths: namely, that freedom is the birth right of all men; that prescription and property are destructive of that